

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, please replace the second and third full paragraphs under the heading "BACKGROUND ART" with the following replacement paragraph:

Conventionally, it is known that chlorosulfonyl isocyanate can be produced by the reaction of sulfur trioxide with cyanogen chloride, and several production methods thereof have been reported. For example, (a) Chem. Ber., 89, 1071 (1956) and West German Patent No. 928896 disclose a method in which sulfur trioxide is added to cyanogen chloride and reacted at a low temperature of -5°C or lower. Also, (b) European Patent No. 294613 and Swiss Patent No. 680292A5 disclose a method for reacting sulfur trioxide with cyanogen chloride at 100 to 200°C.

However, the aforementioned method (a) is not preferable in view of cost, ~~because it requires a large amount (from 1.5 to 3 times by mol) of cyanogen chloride to sulfur trioxide.~~ Also, ~~the method (a) is not preferable in view of safety, because it uses an excess of cyanogen chloride, which is toxic.~~ Moreover, there are problems with ~~in that the yield of isolated chlorosulfonyl isocyanate is low at 60 to 62 %, and the quality, especially the purity, which does not meet commercial requirements.~~ Furthermore, when the aforementioned method (b) is used, it is not easy to control the flow rate of sulfur trioxide and cyanogen chloride added to a reaction system, and the yield of the obtained chlorosulfonyl isocyanate is low and the quality thereof is poor, similar to when the method (a) is used.